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LETTER DATED 12 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the excerpt concerning national reunification from a joint editorial published by Rodong Sinmun, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea; Joson Inmingun, the organ of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces; and Chongnyon Jonwi, the organ of the Central Committee of the Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League on the New Year, Juche 88 (1999) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) LI Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

"Let this year mark a turning-point in building a powerful nation"

Joint editorial published by Rodong Sinmun, Joson Inmingun and Chongnyon Jonwi on the New Year, Juche 88 (1999)

Excerpt concerning national reunification

Last year was a historic year in which the Korean nation made great progress towards national reunification under the unfurled banner of the "Fivepoint Programme for Great National Unity" laid down by the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il.

Last year, we also witnessed the separatists' unprecedented manoeuvres to foil national reunification.

Although a "change of regime" was made in south Korea, inter-Korean relations remain unchanged, and the situation of the south Korean people has become more miserable and difficult.

The economy has fallen into a state of national bankruptcy since the nation was put under trusteeship by the International Monetary Fund. The nationwide joblessness and poverty have come to represent the reality of south Korea, in which corruption holds sway.

Under the colonial and fascist regime of the United States and its subordinates, independence, democracy and reunification are unthinkable and conditions have gone so far that no one can sustain one's life. This is a conclusion that the south Korean people have drawn by themselves after a year-long test period following the start of the "people's regime" last year.

The New Year, Juche 88 (1999), is a year of weighty importance in which an epoch-making change should be made in the efforts of the Korean people for the reunification of the country.

If the cherished desire of the Korean people for national reunification is to be realized, above all, south Korea should become independent.

The south Korean people, who have undergone a half-century of colonial rule, can no longer live such a humiliating life.

The outside forces led by the United States are the target of the struggle for independence in south Korea.

The aggressive outside forces do not hesitate to use other nations as a sacrifice of war, if necessary, to further their own interests.

Anti-foreign, anti-imperialist and anti-puppet struggles should be waged vigorously throughout the country. The south Korean people's nationwide anti-foreign struggle to establish a new independent society in south Korea will inevitably break out.

"Great national unity" is a basic foundation for attaining the goal of national reunification.

The only way out for south Korea is to reject dependence on foreign forces and ally itself with communists in the north, their fellow countrymen, in order to reunify the country.

If one truly wants a reunified fatherland, one should choose not the way of dependence on foreign forces, but the way of carving out the destiny of the nation independently in cooperation with one's fellow countrymen.

The south Korean people should continue fighting to abolish all sorts of tools such as the "National Security Law", the "Unification Ministry" and the "Agency of Security Planning" - all of which block contacts, dialogue and reunification between the north and the south - until they win final victory.

If the whole nation achieves harmony and unity, this is precisely national reunification.

All the Koreans at home and abroad should be united firmly under the uplifted banner of national reunification irrespective of differences in ideology, ideals, religious belief and political views and class and social stratum.

The prospect for reunification is bright as the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il, sun of the Korean nation, is leading the "grand march for national reunification" at the front line.

With fresh confidence and courage, the entire Korean people in the north, the south and overseas will spur the national reunification movement and build a reunified, prosperous and powerful State in the near future.